CITY MANAGERS BULLETIN

CITY MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION

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WITH THE LEGISLATURES AND AT THE POLLS.

Since the last issue of this bulletin, several changes have taken place in the status of the city manager movement. The legislatures of Indiana and Wyoming have passed state-wide optional bills granting all cities in these states the privilege of adopting city-manager government by referendum. The Illinois effort has again been postponed, and the New Jersey bill is now before the legislature with a fair chance for passage. The bill planned by Spartanburg, South Carolina, will not be submitted at this session of the legislature, due to a local controversy as to whether the commissioners should be elected at large or by wards.

NASHVILLE, Tennessee, becomes the fifth commission-manager city of more than 100,000 population. The new charter has been approved by the state legislature, and the first election to choose a council of fifteen members will be held April 14th.

In West Virginia the legislature has passed the act authorizing the adoption of the manager plan by Clarksburg upon referendum. In Maine the bill calling for a referendum on amending the Auburn charter, is still held up in committee and another bill to permit the town of East Livermore to adopt the manager plan was introduced in the House on February 15th. In California a bill has been introduced by Representative Long authorizing the electors of any city to provide for the appointment of a city manager by ordinance introduced and adopted under initiative.

Lake City, Florida, on March 8th, decided in favor of adopting the manager plan by a vote of 464 to 63, and the new charter will be presented to the legislature in April for approval. The papers credit this election and its success to a speech made by City Manager Greer of Tallahassee. Ft. Myers, Florida, on March 9th, approved its city manager charter, which contains a unique provision regulating the flight of airplanes over the city. Presumably this charter is still to be o.k'd by the state legislature in April.

In Kansas, the cities of Garnett, Oakley, and Stockton, have recently voted on adoption of city-manager charters; reports of the results have not been received. Atchison has succeeded in securing legislative approval to putting its new city-manager charter into effect at once instead of waiting until 1923, and the first commission will be elected in April. Salina, Kansas, is seeking similar authorization from legislature.

In Michigan, Manistee voted down by a substantial majority on March 1st, the efforts to amend its charter and abolish the manager plan. A charter revision commission will be elected on April 4th to revise the charter as to the number, term, and method of electing the members of a city commission.

Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, adopted a commission-manager charter by a big majority on March 7th, at which time the first commission was elected.

In Nebraska, the attempt at Alliance to declare the election by which its city manager charter was adopted, illegal, has failed, and the new plan becomes effective followint the regulation city election in April. The report that Chadron had adopted a commission-manager charter, has proved erroneous.

Greensboro, North Carolina, on March 1st changed from the commission to the commission-manager plan through charter amendment by a vote of 1605 to 381; seven councilmen will be elected May 5th to take office on May 10th. This is the thirty-third case of advance from the commission to the city-manager plan.

The attack upon the legality of the Beaumont, Texas, charter is to be heard in court March 24th.

The Ontario provincial legislature has approved the commission-manager charter recently adopted by the city of Chatham. Seven aldermen and a mayor will be elected in December, at which time the plan becomes effective.

Fairfield, Iowa, defeated the proposed adoption of the manager plan February 22nd, by a vote of 748 to 702; and Blair, Nebraska, turned down its proposed manager charter on February 4th.

Several charter elections are scheduled for the near future. Long Beach, California, will vote on its commission-manager charter April 14th. A special charter commission is drafting a city manager charter for Orange, Connecticut. At Stratford, Connecticut, the town meeting unanimously approved the adoption of the manager plan March 19th, and its new charter is being presented to the legislature for approval, with the expectation of a referendum in June. Pensacola, Florida, votes on the manager proposition April 12th. Jacksonville, Florida, may elect a charter commission pledged to the manager plan on March 25th. Decatur, Georgia, which recently adopted the manager plan by amending its old charter, has appointed a special committee to draft a new commission-manager charter for submission to the legislature in June.

Alliance and Girard, Ohio, held elections March 26th and 29th respectively, for the purpose of choosing charter commissions pledged to draft city-manager charters. Canton, Ohio, has completed its new charter and will present to the voters in May. At Salem, Ohio, only five percent of the voters opposed the adoption of the manager plan when petitions for an election were circulated last month.

Johnson City, Tennessee, which has had some six years experience with a makeshift manager plan by ordinance, will soon vote on the adoption of a commission-manager charter. A bill to authorize a referendum has been presented to the legislature and will doubtless be enacted. Bristol, Tennessee, is preparing a city-manager charter to be introduced into the legislature as a result of the marked contrast between the efficiency of its present commission form and that of the manager plan, as developed by Bristol, Va.

In New Brunswick, Canada, the city of Fredericton, is drafting a bill for presentation to the provincial legislature, this month, authorizing the adoption of the manager plan.

THE BULLETIN ADMITS ERROR

In our February issue we inadvertently stated that city managers are exempt from state income taxes as well as the federal taxes. State laws differ and investigation shows that in most cases municipal employees are subject to the state tax. The article as a whole, however, seems to have served a purpose, since it is learned that some managers were paying the federal income tax and a few have taken the hint as to dues and reports.

DAYTON BUREAU OF RESEARCH
CAMPAIGNING FOR THE MANAGER PLAN

The Dayton Bureau of Reaearch, which in its early days took an active part in establishing commission-manager government at Dayton, is not devoting its energies to a somewhat new and interesting field of service. For the past year C. B. Greene, Director of the Bureau, has been spending practically all of his time in boosting the city-manager form of government for other cities. In fact the entire revenue of the Bureau is derived from income obtained through such service. Newspaper articles, speeches, and the actual management of election campaigns, constitute Mr. Greene's stock-in-trade.

Several cities have been aided by "absent treatment" but in the majority of cases the Bureau director has made personal visits. Among the cities which have recently engaged the services of the Dayton Bureau are: Tampa, Miami, and Jacksonville, Fla.; Savannah, Ga.; Louisville, Ky.; Alliance and Girard, Ohio; Kenosha and Sparta, Wis.

As a result of his campaign experiences, Mr. Greene has formulated a bit of practical philosophy which will come as somewhat of a shock to our Chamber of Commerce friends, most of whom will recognize its wisdom in at least some particulars. We quote from a recent letter:

"There is one thing I am being quickly convinced of and that is every time a Chamber of Commerce endorses the movement, the fight becomes harder. My advice to all elements would be to organize a special committee, call it what you please, and then go into the campaign with one and only one issue - better government. This committee may be called the Citizens' Committee, the Good Government Committee, the Charter League, or whatnot, may include the entire Chamber of Commerce membership, but you will find the "average voter" opposed to the Chamber of Commerce "meddling", as they say, in things political. More and more do I note that the average working man regards the Chamber of Commerce as a sort of "high-brow" organization, gotten together and maintained primarily to fight the labor and mechanic. Give me an independent group of citizens pledged to the one thing, better government, and the fight will not be half so hard. One day the Chamber of Commerce at Youngstown endorsed commission-manager government, and the next day organized labor passed a resolution opposing it, and the latter certainly had made no investigation."

FINAL APPEAL FOR REPORTS

Several city managers have not yet turned in any sort of report for publication in our Yearbook. It is not absolutely essential that the manager himself should write this report, but he should see that one is written and forwarded at once, as it is the sincere desire of the City Managers' Association that every one of the 220 cities operating under, or pledged to the manager plan, be represented by some sort of report in the seventh Yearbook.

INFORMATION AND CAMPAIGN SERVICE

BY NATIONAL MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

The National Municipal League, 261 Broadway, New York, has published a leaflet entitled "City Manager Plan - Information and Campaign Service," a copy of which is enclosed herewith. This leaflet outlines briefly, services which the League is equipped to render to cities interested in the manager plan.

The League is taking an active part in securing favorable state legislation. The state-wide optional city manager laws recently enacted by Indiana and Wyoming, were drafted by Dr. A. R. Hatton of the League, and a great many city charters are the result of his handiwork. A New Jersey chapter of the League has recently been organized for the prime purpose of fathering the Parry city-manager bill now before the New Jersey legislature.

All members and subscribers of the City Managers' Association automatically become members of the National Municipal League, and receive the National Municipal Review. In this connection, attention is called to the fact that the subscriptions of C.M.A. members whose 1921 dues are not yet paid, have been discontinued until such payment is made in order to comply with postal regulations.

NEW MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBERS

MEMBERS

E. R. Conant, town manager, Mansfield, Mass.
Clyde Fulton, city manager, Roswell, N. Mex.
John C. Hiteshew, boro. manager, Sewickley, Pa.
Edward C. Meyfarth, city manager, Jackson, Mich.

SUBSCRIBERS

J. Stanley Barlow, attorney, Johnson City. Tenn.
S. R. Bhagwat, chief officer, Poona City, India.
Bur. of Public Admin., Univ. of Calif., Berkeley, Calif.
E. C. Gravin, engineer, Augusta, Ga.
Edward J. Himes, city engineer, Dallas, Ore.
A. G. Riddick, Gulfport, Miss.
Fred. Sherman, Fort Dodge, Ia.
E. M. Sneckenberger, city engineer, Billings, Mont.
Charles S. Stanworth, naval commander, Berkeley, Calif.
C. E. Weare, Jr., Chairman, board of selectmen, Shirley, Mass.
Roy Zahren, Wenatchee, Wash.

APPOINTMENTS

Monticello, Ark. C. C. Remley succeeded A. M. Bell as city manager in July, 1920; salary $2100.

Mansfield, Mass. E. R. Conant, former president of the American Society of Municipal Improvements, and an engineer of long experience, including 21 years of government service and six years as chief engineer and purchasing agent of Savannah, Ga., has been appointed town manager; salary $4000.

Middleboro, Mass. Harry J. Goodale, supt. of public works of Attleboro, Mass., has been chosen town manager to take office April 1st.

Thomasville, N. C. Thomasville's seventh city manager is T. F. Harris; salary $1800.

Middletown, Ohio. Kenyon Riddle, has been appointed city manager at a salary of $5000, taking office the middle of April. Mr. Riddle, though but 32 years of age, is the second oldest manager in the country from the standpoint of service, having been appointed manager at Abilene, Kansas, June, 1913. He is now serving as city manager of Xenia, Ohio, which position he has held for the past three years. He is one of the three charter members of the C.M.A. still in the field, and is the eighth man to be appointed to a third city. This is the fortieth case of a manager being transferred from one municipality to another.

Ponca City, Okla. The charter of Ponca City, adopted last year authorized the appointment of a city manager at the option of the city commission. The first appointment was made February 1921. Hugh Johnson is manager; salary $4200. Mr. Johnson was former city marshall and sheriff.

Sewickley, Pa. John C. Hiteshow became borough manager February 23d; salary $3000. Mr. Hiteshow is the eighth subscriber of the City Managers' Association to be appointed manager within the past six months.

Sumter, S. C. S. O'Quinn became Sumter's seventh city manager January 20, 1921 salary $1800. This drop in salary is an item of interest in as much as Mr. O'Quinn's two predecessors received $4000 each.

Ranger, Texas. M. H. Hagaman, is reported as acting manager. Some time ago it was rumored that a permanent manager would be chosen in April.

OPENINGS

Pasadena, California. Population 45,334. The board of directors will be elected in April to take office in May, at which time a manager will be appointed.

Sacramento, Calif. Population 65,857. The first commission under Sacramento's commission-manager charter will be elected May 3, 1921, and will proceed to choose a manager to take office July 1st.

Colorado Springs, Colo. Population 29,572. The commission-manager charter becomes effective in April and applications are now being filed with the city clerk. A newspaper clipping indicates that public sentiment is against the appointment of an engineer as city manager.

Atchison, Kansas. Population 12,630. A manager will be appointed following the general election in April.

Winfield, Kansas. Population 7933. Applications for the position of manager are being filed with the city clerk. Appointments will be made in April.

Wichita, Kansas. Population 72,128. City Manager Clapp has handed in his resignation to take effect as soon as the new commission to be elected in April can choose a successor. Mr. Clapp's share of the $10,000 salary has been $6000.

Bay City, Mich. Population 47,554. The commission-manager plan becomes effective in April, at which time a manager will be chosen.

Manistee, Mich. Population 9690. A permanent manager had not been selected since the resignation of P. H. Beauvais.

Mt. Pleasant, Mich. Population 4880. City Clerk, F. Brownson, requests applications for the position of manager. The new commission was elected March 7th, and desires to secure a manager as soon as possible.

Sturgis, Mich. Population 5995. A manager will be chosen following the election of five commissioners in April.

Alliance, Nebr. Population 3737. The primary election for choosing the first council under Alliance's new charter, was held March 15th, the general election following in April. Applications for the position of manager may be filed with the city clerk.

Greensboro, N. C. As announced above a commission-manager charter was adopted March 1st by 1605 to 381. The first council will be elected May 5th, and proceed to appoint a manager. In the meantime applications may be filed with C. W. Roberts, secretary of the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce.

Xenia, Ohio. Population 9110. The promotion of Kenyon Riddle to Middletown, leaves vacant the position of manager which will probably be filled at once. The salary has been $3600.

Duncan, Okla. Population 3463. R. M. Cline has resigned as city manager. The appointment of his successor has not been announced. The Duncan charter provides for a salary of $3000.

Rapid City, S. D. Population 5777. A city manager is now being sought. Applications have been requested by Charles A. Nystrom.

St. Albans, Vt. Population 7582. The first council under the new charter was elected March 22nd. and consists of exceptionally high grade men. A city manager is now being sought. Applications may be filed with Mr. F. C. Smith, alderman.

Future openings include the following; Chatham, Ontario, December 1921; Lima, Ohio, January 1922; Salina, Kansas, January 1923; (unless legislation permits the new charter to become effective this year, in which case appointment will probably be made in April or May). Nashville, Tenn., population 118,342, will be ready for a city manager October 1, 1921. The present mayor, under terms of the charter will serve as manager until September 30th.

No recent report is at hand concerning the rumors of openings at Martinez, Calif.; Shenandoah, Iowa; Jersey Shores, Pa.; and Brownwood, Texas.

"PROSPECTS"

In addition to the cities enumerated above, and those previously reported in the bulletin, marked interest in the manager plan is being shown at Devon, Enfield, and Willimatic, Ct.; Rockford, Ill.; Muncie, Ind.; Herington, Kans.; Holly, Mt. Clemens and Utica, Mich.; Fergus Falls, Minn.; Greenwood, Miss.; St. Joseph, Mo.; Cohoes, New York; Idabel and Tulsa. Okla.; Dallas, Ore.; Burlington, Vt.; Sparta and Wauwatosa, Wis.; and Bathurst and Campbellton, N. B., Canada.

There is also a movement on foot looking toward a city manager government for the dual city of Texarkana, situated on the state line between Texas and Arkansas.